RED CROSS STILL ACTIVE.

WILL SEND A BIG CARGO OF SUPPLIES TO PORTO RICO ON WEDNESDAY.

Work of the Various Auxiliaries Goes On—Receipts and Disbursements of the Past Week—Good Work Done by the Ice Auxiliary—The Family Relief Association.

The work of the Red Cross goes on day by day as actively, if not under the same pressure, as during the continuance of the war. Requisitions filled in the past week numbered more than a half dozen to every working day, and some of those received remain to be filled. A requisition from Porto Rico, which calls for about $5,000 worth of goods, was received yesterday. The goods will be shipped on the Chester on Wednesday. Necessities and delicacies, clothing, bedding and edibles have been sent out from the supply depot at 552 Broadway during the week to the following:

United States hospital ship Missouri, Pier 24, Brooklyn.
Long Island City Emergency Hospital.
Red Cross Field Agent, Camp Wikoff.
Miss Melville, Chapel Hill, Atlantic Highlands, N. J.
Church of the Incarnation, Children's Home, Peekskill.
Major Rafferty, surgeon, Fort Hamilton.
Miss Ollesheimer, Ninth Regiment Armory, New York.
Mrs. Bowne's Hospital, Easthampton, Long Island.
Soldiers' Rest, 558 State street, Brooklyn.
Sternberg Hospital, Chickamauga Park.
Soldiers' Comfort Committee, Pennsylvania Railroad station, Jersey City.
Post Hospital, Governors Island.
St. John's Hospital, Brooklyn.
Home for Convalescents, Eighth N. Y. V., Pelham Park.
Post Hospital, Bedlow's Island.
New Rochelle Hospital.
Mrs. Henry S. Glover, Chairman, Fairfield, Conn.
Gen. Wood, Santiago, Cuba.
Red Cross Field Agent, Ponce, P. R.
Auxiliary 22 to be distributed among soldiers coming to the Bureau of Distribution, 554 Broadway.
Mountainside Hospital, Montclair, N. J.
Hospital Ship Relief, Brooklyn.
William H. Grim, 521 East 119th street, New York.
Dr. J. M. Lindsley, Assistant Surgeon, U. S. A., Santiago, Cuba.
Miss Marjorie Henshall, Fort Wadsworth, N. Y.
Bearer.
Nurses' Tent Hospital, Fort Hamilton, New York.
Holiday House, Hunter's Island, City Island Station.
Post Hospital, Fort Hamilton.
Red Cross Hospital Car, Grand Central Station.
Nassau Hospital Annex, West Hempstead, Long Island.

A summary of the goods shipped during the week is as follows:

Underwear, suits	1,208
Socks, pairs	1,032
Slippers, pairs	96
Blankets	76
Pajamas, suits	488
Equipped cots	156
Books, cases	2
Tobacco, cases	4
Draw sheets	60
Razors	12
Toothbrushes	888
Combs	180
Suspenders, pairs	24
Nightshirts	466
Abdominal bands	80
Towels	1,884
Pillow cases	468
Négligé shirts	186
Sheets	668
Handkerchiefs	292
Cheesecloth squares	624
Groceries, cases	27

The goods received during the week are summarized as follows:

Groceries, cases	19
Pajamas, suits	782
Sheets	948
Nightshirts	248
Wash cloths	62
Abdominal bands	414
Towels	1,404
Pillowcases	896
Négligé shirts	390
Handkerchiefs	568
Cheesecloth squares	661
Comfort bags	27
Books, cases	2

Auxiliary No. 1, Ambulance Equipment, is to send to Santiago a launch for the use of Major Havard in transporting the fever patients there. The following letter shows the appreciation there of the work of launches already sent as well as the usefulness of the service generally:

HARBOR OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Sept. 3, 1898.

MY DEAR MR. DODGE: If you could have seen yesterday the excellent work done by your launches I think you would have been very much pleased. In two hours, without confusion, crowding or discomfort, we took off from shore and put to bed on the ship 110 patients. Those who were obliged to be carried on litters were sent on the launches, those able to sit up were put into the ship's boats and towed over by the launches. Over 120 had been put on board the day before in the same way, but they came in smaller detachments. Each man on arriving was bathed, furnished with a nightshirt (a suit of pajamas and slippers if he was well enough to be about), and put to bed. Hot bouillon and biscuit were served out to nearly all and stimulants administered to the weakest. All of those who were capable of any emotion expressed the greatest delight at being bound for home on such a well-equipped ship as the Missouri. Her condition in New York, Mr. Robinson will tell you, left everything to be desired, and we were ordered off only half ready. But by hard work on the trip down we have managed to make a very creditable hospital ship of the Missouri, as I hope to show you when we get back to New York.

The ice plant, laundry and carbonating apparatus are all in good working order now. The men enjoy their "fizz water" very much, and it makes an excellent drink for the large number suffering from stomach trouble. The ginger ale, tobacco, &c., are rapidly disappearing, but your supply was so generous that they will not be exhausted before we get to New York. The pajamas, night shirts, slippers, &c., are of the greatest value. Every patient on board has his equipment, and the pajamas make an ideal costume for those who are able to be on deck.

One of the most useful things I have seen are the equipped cots. I have distributed 175 among the division hospitals, the yellow fever hospital and the general hospital. The surgeons are delighted with them. Twenty-five I have kept for the use of our own patients who can be carried on deck, but are too weak to sit up. Altogether the supplies you sent are going directly to the men for whom you intended them and nothing will be lost, wasted or stolen, which is a source of satisfaction to every one, I am sure.

As soon as the men come on board hope seems to revive and a complete change of expression is noticed. It is now the ambition of my life to get these men home in good condition, and if we succeed it will be in great measure due to the well-directed generosity of your association. Will you kindly tell Mrs. Cowdin that the contract nurses she selected have one and all performed their duty most faithfully and intelligently, and that they have done much in the way of cleaning up, unpacking, and storing supplies, &c., that they might easily have refused to do. They all show a most willing spirit and have done most excellent work. Altogether, and largely owing to the auxiliaries of the National Red Cross, I think I am justified in saying that our first trip has been a success.

With renewed thanks for all that you have done for the Missouri, I am, yours sincerely,
WILLIAM H. ARTHUR.

The Ice Plant Auxiliary, in a statement of the summer's work, says that it has by no means ceased its labors, but that as the season has advanced and cooler weather reduced the need for so large a supply of ice, the committee has added to its contributions milk, ice-cream, chickens and other fresh supplies for the hospitals in the neighborhood of the city. The auxiliary began on July 1 by giving to the Red Cross agents at Jacksonville and Chickamauga authority to purchase all necessary ice for the hospitals and to send the accounts to New York. "We chartered the schooner Mary E. Morse," the statement says, "loaded her with Maine ice and consigned her to Clara Barton at Santiago for the use of our soldiers." A second schooner was loaded with ice and fresh vegetables for the blockading squadrons off Matanzas and Havana. It was in charge of Dr. Lamar, who found that the blockade had been raised. He was able to furnish about thirty-five of the fleet with as large a share of his cargo as each could carry, the statement says, but he found himself at the end of August at Key West with 380 tons of ice, which, to save waste, he sold.

During the month of August the amount of ice at all the camps was increased owing to the work of the auxiliary, agents being urged to order all that was needed. The ice plant on the hospital ship Missouri, which cost the auxiliary $5,400, is reported as doing excellent service. Within a few days Surgeon Seaman at Porto Rico has sent for an allowance of ice and milk for fever patients. The request has been promptly responded to, and the Red Cross agent at Porto Rico has at the same time been requested to see that all the hospitals there are supplied. During July, the report says, milk was supplied as long as it was needed to the sick men of the naval reserve on the training ship New Hampshire. The monthly payroll includes entries for supplies furnished to the hospitals at Fort Wadsworth, 100 pounds daily; Fort Hamilton, 50 pounds daily; Governors Island, 100 pounds daily; Fort Myer, refrigerators and ice daily; Fort Sheridan post hospital, 50 pounds daily; Camp Hobson, Huntsville, Ala., all the ice needed for the hospital.

The auxiliary's agent at Fort Monroe is under instructions to supply with ice all transports carrying soldiers, the auxiliary to pay the expense. The Washington post barracks and hospital have been supplied with ice and water coolers. The Long Island City station is privileged to buy all the ice needed at the auxiliary's expense. On certain days of the week milk, ice, cream and chickens are sent to Porto Hamilton and Wadsworth and Governors Island.

The auxiliary announces that it has expended in three months about $25,000 and that it is not yet bankrupt. It would be grateful, however, the statement says, for further assistance to enable it to prolong its useful work.

The New York Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Protective Association announces that up to date it has expended $28,000. The applications received number 1,003. Relief has been granted in 913 cases, and refused, after investigation, in 75 cases. Some applications remain to be acted upon. Under the auspices of the association there is to be an entertainment at the Casino Theatre on Friday evening, which Gen. Joseph Wheeler will attend. His letter to Mrs. Florence Lindsay Bailey accepting the invitation is as follows:

"DEAR MADAM: I have received your kind letter of the 23d inviting me to be present as a guest at the entertainment to be given on Sept. 30 in aid of the fund of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Protective Association. Although every moment of my time is occupied with the important duties in connection with this command, and the caring for the large number of sick, to which I am devoting all my energies, and it is exceedingly difficult for me to absent myself from camp even for a few hours, yet I am so thoroughly in accord with the purposes of your association and so desirous of doing all in my power to aid them, that it will afford me great pleasure to accept your most kind invitation and be present on the date mentioned. I trust that your association will be increasingly prosperous."

BRYAN'S WHITE HOUSE ERRAND.

Went with Gov. Holcomb to Ask That Some Nebraska Troops Be Sent Home.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—Following is the statement submitted by Gov. Holcomb of Nebraska to the President relative to mustering out of soldiers of the Third Nebraska, of which William Jennings Bryan is Colonel. It was presented yesterday in the call at the White House by the Governor and Col. Bryan.

To the President:

I have the honor to present the following facts relative to the volunteer soldiers from the State of Nebraska and to make certain suggestions based thereon for your consideration.

When the first call for volunteers was made, two regiments of infantry of the strength then required, viz., 1,028 men each, were allotted to Nebraska and were promptly furnished. Anticipating a possible second call I authorized the recruiting of a provisional regiment, the organization of which was in progress and nearly completed when a second call for additional volunteers was promulgated by your Excellency. Under the second call, Nebraska was required to recruit the First and Second regiments to the maximum strength of 1,326 men, and, in addition thereto, was alloted one regiment of the maximum strength of 1,326. These, too, were speedily furnished. In addition to the above, Nebraska furnished Troop K, 84 men, for the Third United States Volunteer Cavalry, which has since been mustered out, and some miscellaneous enlistments in the engineer and naval forces.

The First Regiment was sent to Manila, the Second stationed at Chickamauga and the Third assigned to the Seventh Army Corps at Jacksonville, Fla. I feel justified in saying that the soldiers from Nebraska have proved themselves efficient and satisfactory. While the war was in progress and the necessity for military service apparent, Nebraska soldiers, prompted by patriotic motives, were ready to face the dangers of camp and field. With the cessation of hostilities and the muster out of half of the volunteer army, a reaction in feeling set in, and many who were willing to fight the nation's battles began to evince a desire to avoid the routine of camp and garrison life. Among Nebraska's quota were married men, sons of dependent parents, college boys and many who sacrificed good business positions.

The sickness which prevailed among the members of the Second and Third Regiments, as well as throughout the army generally, lessened the attractiveness of the service and made the relatives of the soldiers solicitous for their return home.

As Executive of the State, I asked that Nebraska be allowed her full quota of volunteers or even more, when volunteers were called for. I feel it my duty now to protest against the State being compelled to furnish more than her quota for garrison duty when such service is not agreeable to the volunteers and causes anxiety and remonstrance at home.

You have decided to reduce the volunteer army one-half, and have evidently intended to so apportion the remaining forces as to require of each State a just and reasonable contribution to the volunteer army which you think it necessary to retain.

Observing that in some of the States from three-fifths to two-thirds of the volunteers had been mustered out, and alarmed by the increase in sickness in the Third Nebraska Regiment, I asked that that regiment, or, at least, two battalions of it, be mustered out. Recognizing, however, that it would be impossible for you under your present plan to allow that reduction in all States, and not desiring to ask more favorable consideration for Nebraska than might reasonably be granted to every other State, I shall not insist upon the muster out of the entire regiment.

I venture to suggest that, while you have made an average reduction of one-half, you have retained in the service two of the three regiments furnished by Nebraska, or about 2,650 men (less those who have died in battle and in the camp and those who have been discharged upon individual application), whereas Nebraska's quota would be about 1,700 men if based upon population, or 1,931 if based upon military strength.

I ask that, if consistent with the good of the service, you authorize the mustering out of the excess over and above Nebraska's fair share. This can be done by mustering out battalion formations or by discharge of a certain number of enlisted men from each company, or in such other manner as you may think best. Whether you make the reduction by battalions or by individual discharges, it will be possible to release those who have the best reasons for desiring to return home.

If you desire me to make the apportionment of the number to be discharged I shall, as nearly as possible, take an equal number from the First and Third regiments, provided that in case either regiment does not furnish its quota of persons desiring discharges the other regiment shall be allowed a proportionate increase of discharges. I also ask that enlisted men of the Second Nebraska who desire it be transferred to the First or Third regiment and to that extent increase the number who can be discharged.

If you find it feasible to grant the above request, you will not only relieve Nebraska of an excessive levy, but will make the service, so far as our State is concerned, more truly a volunteer service. Very respectfully,
SILAS A. HOLCOMB, Governor.

Gov. Holcomb of Nebraska left Washington this afternoon for Lincoln. He carried with him a Treasury warrant for $19,000, payable to the State Treasurer of Nebraska, which is the amount due that State to refund the direct taxes imposed in 1861. The law authorizing the refunding of these taxes was passed by Congress in 1891, but it was not until 1895 that the Legislature of Nebraska took the necessary steps to collect it. No demand had been made by Nebraska's Executive until late yesterday afternoon, when Gov. Holcomb called on Secretary Gage and served notice on him that he had been authorized by the Legislature to receive the amount due, at the same time presenting a certified copy of the resolution.

Nebraska was a Territory when the direct tax was collected, and the acquisition of Statehood afterward somewhat complicated the settlement. These were untangled to-day, however; the account was passed by the Auditor and the warrant for the refunded taxes was drawn and handed the Governor in person.

NAVAL ORDERS.

Assignments for Capts. Evans and Rodgers and Other Officers of the Service.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—Capt. Robley D. Evans has been ordered to duty at the Navy Department as a member of the Board on Inspection and Survey on Oct. 5. Capt. Frederick Rodgers has been detached from the command of the Puritan and ordered to the Navy Department as President of the Board on Inspection and Survey Oct. 5. Commander R. E. Impey has been detached from the command of the Sterling on the reporting of his relief, Lieutenant-Commander J. R. Selfridge, who has been detached from the Puritan. The orders assigning Commander G. E. Ide to the command of the Sterling have been revoked. Commander C. J. Train will be detached from the command of the Prairie on Oct. 1, and under orders issued to-day will take command of the Puritan.

These naval orders also have been issued:

Lieut. H. O. Dunn, from the Terror, to take charge of the branch Hydrographic Office in Baltimore; Lieut. C. N. Atwater, from the Amphitrite, to the Naval Academy; Medical Inspector R. A. Marmion, relieved as a member of Medical Examining Board; Chaplain G. A. Crawford (retired), to the Wabash; Lieut. G. A. Merriam, from the Dixie to the Puritan, as executive officer; Passed Assistant Surgeon J. F. Bransford, appointed to that grade from Sept. 21; Ensign A. J. Henriques, from the Pompey to home; Passed Assistant Engineer G. W. Perkins, from the navy yard, Norfolk, to the Alexander; Ensign R. Trimble, from the Puritan to home; Passed Assistant Engineer D. Ritchie, order to Alexander revoked and will proceed home instead; Lieut. J. Gray, from the Yankton to home; Lieut. R. C. Hoker, from the Brutus to home; Lieut. W. L. Beers, to the Terror; Ensign E. L. Bissett, from the Princeton to the Buffalo; Lieut. N. Sargent, to the Navy Department as recorder of the Board on Inspection and Survey; Ensign W. R. Cushman, from the Hornet to the Yankton; Lieut. H. George, from the Vermont to the Naval Academy; Ensign W. K. Gise, from the Bureau of Navigation to the Texas; Ensign W. G. Richardson (retired), from the Bureau of Navigation to home; Ensign J. M. Flinn to the Princeton.

These officers, who were commissioned for the war, have been honorably discharged from the naval service:

Ensign H. F. Kuntz, S. D. Baker and W. B. Edgar; Naval Cadet W. H. Allen and Assistant Engineer M. L. Cooke.

BOYNTON ON CAMP THOMAS.

DISCREDITS A WITNESS AND CRITICISES A REPORT.

He Declares That Chief Surgeon J. C. Martin Has Shown Himself to Have Been Untrustworthy—Replies to Alleged Faulty Assertions by the Sanger Board.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—Brig.-Gen. H. V. Boynton of the volunteer army, who is Chairman of the Chickamauga Park Commission, has sent to the War Department two reports in reference to the military encampment at Chickamauga. In one of these he shows that testimony given by a certain witness before the board appointed to investigate the condition of the encampment was untrustworthy, and in the other disputes some of the statements in the report of the investigating board itself. Following is Gen. Boynton's report in regard to the witness, Chief Surgeon John C. Martin, in the form of a letter addressed to the Adjutant-General at Camp Thomas:

CAMP GEORGE H. THOMAS, Ga., Sept. 13.
Col. George R. Cecil, Adjutant-General, Camp Thomas:

COLONEL: I herewith transmit for the information of the commanding General a copy of an official paper in my possession, by which one of the prominent witnesses before the board of which Brig.-Gen. J. P. Sanger was President two days subsequent to giving his testimony made a written retraction of exactly similar statements which he had made the evening of the day he testified to myself as Chairman of the Park Commission. The witness to whom I refer is Major John C. Martin, Chief Surgeon, First Brigade, Second Division, First Corps. His testimony, given Aug. 14, before the Sanger board was as follows:

"I attribute a large per cent. of the typhoid to the use of water for drinking purposes of surface wells that are polluted by drainage and overflow from sinks and cesspools. The water piped from Chickamauga Creek has been contaminated by the surface water and drainage from Snodgrass Hill, the 'Midway' and Lytle, pouring into the creek above the intake. A small dam was built, but was entirely inadequate, after a hard rain, to prevent this water from flowing into the creek. This condition of affairs continued up to about Aug. 6, when a canal was completed which now carries this water into the creek below the intake."

Having made these statements to me in public the evening of the day he testified, coupled with the statements that the military authorities were trying to suppress such information, and that the Chief Surgeon's reports were not true, I reported his statements to headquarters. He was summoned there and admitted that he had no knowledge except hearsay, for anything he had said, and being informed that he must make his assertions good or retract them, he wrote the following:

"CAMP GEORGE H. THOMAS, CHICKAMAUGA PARK, Ga., July 16.
"*To the Assistant Adjutant-General, Camp George H. Thomas and Department of the Gulf.*

"SIR: I desire and do retract each and every word spoken and statement made by me to Gen. Boynton during a private conversation held in the Read Hotel in Chattanooga, Ga., on the evening of July 14, 1898, believing it best for myself and for the interest of the public service. JOHN C. MARTIN,
"Major and Surgeon, First Brigade, Second Division, First Corps."

This is the report in reference to the report of the investigating board:

CAMP GEO. H. THOMAS, Ga., Sept. 12, 1898.
To the Adjutant-General, Camp Thomas.

SIR: Finding in the public press the report of the board of which Gen. J. P. Sanger was President upon the sanitary conditions of this camp, which report and accompanying papers you submitted for my information, I have the honor of sending herewith for filing with that report certain observations and conclusions of my own at variance therewith.

I very much regret that the various favorable replies made and opinions expressed by a number of regimental officers in the papers accompanying the report as to the healthfulness of this park and the wholesomeness of its water supply were not referred to in the report of the board, and that the only analysis of the water within the park which the board had in its possession was not alluded to. While the board says in regard to the water in the park "we believe that all the water in the park is unsafe for use unless boiled," I find nothing in the report to show that a single analysis of either spring or well water was made at the instance of the board on which to found an unearned opinion, and that the only analysis which the board had among its papers was the one from the Health Office of Philadelphia above referred to.

On the other hand, it is a fact that an analysis by competent chemists, made by the Park Commission under authority from the Secretary of War of every well and spring that is in the park and from all the springs without it from which the troops have hauled water, showed all in use by the troops for drinking to be good.

This result was made public in the Chattanooga newspapers and elsewhere two weeks before the board submitted its report.

The daily observations of the park force as to garbage being "generally burned" at the date of the board's report do not agree with that conclusion, but show that there was a great laxity in this matter, which continued up to the time when the troops guilty of this neglect left camp. Garbage deposited before the board began its labors and since its report has been found by the park force and is now being burned by them in various parts of the park.

The conclusions of the board that camps in the woods were not healthy were not shared by many regimental officers. The reading of the report would convey the idea of camp in thick shade, when, as a matter of fact, the forests are open in all directions to sunshine, and except where regiments were encamped in the flat woods, of which there is a very small area in the park, the woods camps dry quickly.

It will be noticed that the board in one place declares, "in nearly all the camps the sinks fill with water which the soil does not absorb," and in another that "the water supply and soil of the park are generally so polluted as to be dangerous to the health of the regiments encamped in the open fields," which could not well be if the soil did not absorb water. It is respectfully submitted that the unsanitary conditions of the camps which the board admits when it declares the policing of the camps is "generally good, sinks excepted," taken in connection with the daily observations of the park force that sinks, both of the men and of the kitchens, in very many parts of the camp were continuously in disgusting condition during the heat of the entire month of August and up to the withdrawal of the last troops toward the middle of September, were quite sufficient to account for disease without condemning the water supply in the absence of analysis.

While it was doubtless wise to recommend withdrawal of troops, the position against which I feel called upon respectfully to protest is that the recent unhealthfulness of the camp areas was from any other cause than the filthy condition introduced by a portion of the troops. While the observations do not complete my objections to the report of the board, they will serve to show why I regard that report as calculated to convey very erroneous impressions in regard to this national park as a suitable camping ground for a large army. Very respectfully,
H. V. BOYNTON,
Chairman Park Commission.

VALUE OF THE PESO.

Porto Rico's Coin to Be Received as Equal to 50 Cents in Paying Duties.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—Secretary Gage made a report to the President to-day on the proposition to fix an equivalent in American money for the Porto Rican peso. Gen. Brooke has recommended that the value of the peso be fixed at 50 cents, so far as used in the payment of custom dues, and this was concurred in by the Secretary of the Treasury. In the absence of any authority of law to determine the value of the money of Porto Rico, Secretary Gage said the order issued to Gen. Brooke was not intended to fix the legal value of the coin. It was merely saying that it would be accepted by the military authorities in Porto Rico at the value named. If more could be obtained for it in trade the Government would of course have no objection, but if its value fell below 50 cents the military authorities stood ready to receive it at that price.

The bullion value of the peso is 40 cents, and it contains approximately the same amount of silver as the French 5-franc piece. Its value in gold exchange had ranged in late years from 55 to 70 cents, and it was the fluctuations in exchange value that caused a great deal of the uncertainty in business enterprise on the island. Between five and six millions of pesos were in circulation in Porto Rico, and their ultimate disposition and value must be left to Congress, for there was, of course, no law bearing on the subject.

COLUMBUS WAR RELIC.

Bust of the Discoverer Taken from the Colon Received in Washington.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—A bronze bust of Christopher Columbus, taken from the cabin of the Spanish armored cruiser Cristobal Colon after that vessel was driven ashore by the Brooklyn and the Oregon in the battle of July 3, was received at the Navy Department to-day. It was brought from Santiago by Commander Converse of the cruiser Montgomery. Mr. Allen, the acting Secretary of the Navy, decided at first to send it to the National Museum, but later ordered that it should remain on exhibition, with a card of description attached, in the reception room of the Secretary.

The bust is handsome, and beyond a few scratches is in good condition.

DIET KITCHENS FOR THE ARMY.

Mrs. Louise E. Hogan's Plan Approved by the President and Army Officers.

In order that the sick and convalescent of the army may be properly fed hereafter a system of diet kitchens, to extend throughout the entire army, is under preparation. Every regiment will have one, which will be under the supervision of the senior surgeon of the regiment and will be an adjunct of the regimental dispensary. The surgeon may have as assistants in the work, on requisition from the department, contract cooks, contract nurses—either male or female—hospital corps men or enlisted cooks detailed for this particular service. The project was set on foot last May by Surgeon-General Sternberg and Commissary-General Eagan along lines laid down by Mrs. Louise E. Hogan, who is a writer on diet and cookery.

These diet kitchens will be established by a general order as soon as a study of existing conditions will permit of their being arranged in the most systematic and efficient way. Each regimental diet kitchen will be used as a centre for the supervision and improvement of conditions in the company kitchens, where, it is said, reform is most needed. A revision of the army cook book will be made, teaching how to contrive between fifty and sixty different dishes out of army rations, and this will be issued together with directions for meeting immediate dietetical conditions.

In its perfected form, as outlined by Mrs. Hogan, the project looks to the formation of a sort of relief society which shall take this work in hand and carry it through, the only part played by the War Department being the paying of the bills. The President of the United States, ex-officio, will be asked to be the nominal head, but the executive work will be done by a staff entirely independent of the army. This plan, Mrs. Hogan says, meets with the entire approval of the President and all the principal officials in the War Department. It contemplates the selection of a general staff as soon as possible to carry on the work which has been already begun. There are already enrolled a secretary to Mrs. Hogan, trained army cooks, male assistant cooks, volunteer surgeons, orderlies, and drivers. There are also in the work reliable persons in Cuba and Porto Rico who keep Mrs. Hogan informed of the needs there. As fast as the plans are perfected the kitchens will be started, and the bills sent to the departments of the Surgeon-General, the Quartermaster-General, and the Commissary-General for payment. In an interview on the subject Mrs. Hogan says:

"Much misery has been caused here and elsewhere from lack of knowledge of what should have been done, and also from lack of forethought on the part of commanding officers, particularly Colonels and Captains, who are really the housekeepers of the army and are directly responsible for the making of timely requisitions for the needs of their men. A housekeeper or hotel man who has to be ready for any emergency or expansion would laugh to scorn the methods of those officers who wait until there is need before asking for the necessities of life, although fully aware that there is always a delay under the existing regulations. The fault is not so much in the departments which have been so much criticised as with the men along the line. When I ask a Quartermaster why wooden floors haven't been laid in every tent as ordered by the department he replies, Why don't the men ask for them? It isn't my business to go around asking them what they want me to do. And when I ask a Captain why his men aren't prepared for cold weather he seems to think that it's none of his business. If I apply to a General for permission to remove men to a private hospital he replies gruffly that the army hospitals are all right. The officials at Washington have given me every help, and I have felt greatly favored to be allowed to act quickly and directly wherever there seemed to be the most need. The work will go slowly for a time yet as competent assistants can't be found all at once, and I shall accept the services of none who are not competent and tried."

Mrs. Hogan has spent some time at Camp Wikoff, and in a week of work on the diet kitchens has established the following:

Seventh Infantry, under Dr. Senelia, is in working order, with one man detailed from regiment for diet kitchen duty and one female nurse, graduate of Boston Training School.

Tenth Cavalry, under Major Fowler, is in working order, with three colored female nurses.

Third Cavalry, under Dr. Kelly, has taken with it diet kitchen equipment, supplies, and a knowledge of future work.

Second Cavalry, under Dr. Romig, has tents and supplies, and other work will be arranged for.

First Cavalry, detachment, under Col. Viele, has tent up and is preparing for further work.

Twenty-fourth Infantry, about to leave, under Major Hawley, has tent, some supplies, and is arranging for future work.

Twenty-fifth Infantry, which will remain to the last near the general hospital, will have its diet kitchen in one of the unused buildings, and arrangements are being made. All other work necessary at Camp Wikoff is being attended to as rapidly as possible.

ORAL FURLOUGHS ORDERED.

A Volunteer Officer Answers the Criticisms of Brig.-Gen. Randolph.

Some of the officers of the New York volunteer regiments resent Brig.-Gen. Randolph's criticisms of the manner of furloughing the men of their regiments. Gen. Randolph said that much inconvenience might have been avoided had written furloughs been given in the regular way, so that the men could draw transportation, back pay and clothing, instead of having been given orally, as they were in nearly all instances.

A Major of one of the New York Volunteer regiments answered this statement yesterday by exhibiting a paper marked "General Orders, No. 134," which reads:

"WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, Sept. 2, 1898.

"The following is published to the army for the information and guidance of all concerned:

"1. Furloughs granted to enlisted men under the provisions of General Orders, No. 130, War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, Aug. 29, 1898, will not be given on the usual blanks, but will be given orally by commanding officers."

The order is signed H. C. Corbin, Adjutant-General.

This Major says that written furloughs had been prepared for the men of his regiment when this order was received, and were not issued. He also says that his books and records are in excellent condition, and that all the records of which he has cognizance are well kept.

ARMY INQUIRY UNDER WAY.

COMMISSIONERS MEET THE PRESIDENT AND BEGIN WORK.

Ex-Gov. Beaver of Pennsylvania and Dr. P. S. Conner of Cincinnati Added to the Commission—Proceedings for the Present Will Be Secret—To Work by Committees.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—President McKinley's Army Investigation Commission assembled at the White House this morning, pursuant to the request of the Chief Executive. There were eight men present: Major-Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, Iowa; Major-Gen. Alexander McDowell McCook, retired, Ohio; Brig.-Gen. John M. Wilson, Chief of Engineers, U. S. A., District of Columbia; ex-Gov. Urban A. Woodbury, Vermont; ex-Gov. James A. Beaver, Pennsylvania; Col. Charles Denby, Indiana; Col. J. A. Sexton, Illinois; Capt. Evan P. Howell, Georgia. While they were together here, President McKinley received word that Dr. Phineas S. Conner, a leading physician of Cincinnati, O., would be the ninth member. He served in the civil war as assistant surgeon, so that all the members have a military record as well as a civil record of prominence and success. Dr. Conner was recommended to the President by Dr. Keen of Philadelphia when he declined to take a place. Dr. Conner will join his colleagues Monday.

Ex-Gov. Beaver's appearance was a surprise to every one on the outside, as his name had not been mentioned publicly at any time with the commission. The Commissioners occupied the seats of the eight members of the Cabinet about the conference table, President McKinley in his accustomed place at the head.

There was a free and frank exchange of views around the table respecting the work in hand and the methods of accomplishing it. President McKinley sought to impress upon the men before him that the investigation should be thorough and complete. If any member imagined that the object of the appointment of the commission was to exonerate any one from blame for mismanagement or incompetency, except upon the clearest and most convincing proof, he desired a change of opinion in that member.

The conference at the White House lasted nearly two hours. At its conclusion the members went over to the War Department and held their first formal meeting in the rooms of the Board of Ordnance and Fortifications for organization. This was completed by the election of the following officers:

Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, Chairman; Major S. C. Mills of the Inspector-General's Department of the Army, Recorder; Richard Weightman of Washington, D. C., Secretary. Mr. Weightman is an editorial writer on the Washington Post, a Democrat, and a former resident of Louisiana. The board then adjourned until 10 A. M. on Monday, when the plan of procedure will be agreed upon. It was decided to-day to hold two sessions daily, extending in all for five hours.

After adjournment Chairman Dodge said that the proceedings for the present, at least, would be secret. This is not in accordance with the President's desire, as voiced by Dr. Keen in an interview published in Philadelphia after his recent visit to Washington, where he had a conference with the President. Dr. Keen is further quoted:

"I am revealing no confidences when I repeat one or two of the President's utterances. President McKinley said: 'I feel that the American people have committed these boys to my hands, and if anybody has wronged them, I want to find it out. I don't believe that an army has ever been watched over more anxiously and continuously than I have watched over this army, for I have spent seventeen hours a day in this office in looking after them.'"

The investigation, it is understood, will proceed simultaneously in three divisions which are the subject of inquiry, the Quartermaster's, the commissary and the medical, the commission being divided into three committees for this purpose. Dr. Conner will doubtless have a place on the committee charged with the investigation of the medical division. It is probable that after the officers and documents of the War Office have been examined the commission will visit the several camps and take testimony, this being much more expeditious and economical than to bring the witnesses here.

The meeting of the investigating commission to-day and its prompt organization for the business in hand, were made the occasion for a good deal of critical comment around the War Department. Gratification is expressed on all sides that the investigation which the public has so generally demanded is at last on foot. The heads of the several staff departments of the army which are to be investigated have prepared statements for the investigation, and the official despatches and documents which will be examined by the commission have been arranged so as to afford the greatest facility for the investigators in their work. It was realized at the outset that a tremendous task was before the commission and the officers of the several departments which are the object of inquiry, and it is known that under the most favorable circumstances the labors of the Commissioners cannot be completed in a very short time.

Recruits for Regulars at Huntsville.

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Sept. 24.—The commands of the regular army encamped for the winter at Huntsville will recruit to full war strength. Recruits for them are arriving daily. The Tenth, the Eighth, and the Sixteenth Infantry are badly broken and need many more men.

THE MONITOR TYPE OF 1898.

The Department's Plans for the Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida and Wyoming.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—The United States revolutionized naval construction and methods in 1861, and it has been revolutionizing them ever since. It is true other nations have been progressing more rapidly numerically, but scientifically, in hulls, machinery and armaments, the United States naval constructors have again set the pace of the world. The experiences of the war with Spain have suggested new departures. The ships of the future additions to the American Navy will be a marked advance on former designs.

The naval programme for 1898-99, under the act of May 4, 1898, provides for three first-class battleships, four coast defence monitors, twelve torpedo boats and sixteen torpedo destroyers.

The four harbor defence monitors called for will present some of the most radical advances in the modern fighting machinery. The monitor principle has always been distinctively American. There are many who regard them as the best all-round warships yet designed.

The act of Congress appropriating for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, under "Increase of the Navy," referring to the four harbor defence vessels of the monitor type, limits the cost of these vessels to $1,500,000 each. The limit of time of completion is twenty-seven months, with penalties from $300 to $600 a day for failure.

The Navy Department, in the construction of this class of vessel securing the greatest results at the least expenditure of money, has in view not only the securing of the mainland harbors of the United States, but also of its island possessions in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

The design for the monitors, which have been named the Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida and Wyoming, was prepared by Chief Constructor Hichborn. It was decided that the best all-round arrangement that could be built with the available appropriation was the arrangement with a single balanced turret on the centre line forward, containing two high-powered 12-inch breech-loading rifles, a gun that has just been designed to be used with smokeless powder; four 4-inch rapid-fire breech-loading rifles, also to be used with smokeless powder, complete the main battery. The secondary battery will consist of three 6-pounder rapid-fire and four 1-pounder automatic rifles.

The general characteristics of these vessels, as shown in the elements of design, will be:

Length on load water line	225 feet
Breadth, extreme, at water line	50 feet
Mean draught, at normal displacement	12 feet 6 inches
Normal displacement (about)	2,700 tons
Total coal capacity, loose stowage	200 tons

In the details of design will appear these characteristics:

The hull is to be of steel, not sheathed, with double bottom and close water-tight subdivisions.

There will be one military mast, fitted with fighting and searchlight tops.

Seven boats are to be stowed clear of the blast of the guns. Two, being the lifeboats, are to be carried at davits, so as to be quickly lowered.

The protection of the hull against injury to the water-line region is to be afforded by means of a side armor belt, the maximum thickness being 11 inches, tapering to 5 inches at the armor shelf, the depth being 5 feet. The maximum thickness is abreast the engine and boiler spaces; thence forward and aft it is reduced by steps to a minimum thickness of 5 inches at the bow and stern. The barbettes for the 12-inch guns will have armor about 10 inches thick.

The turret is of the Hichborn balanced type, with front plate inclined forty-two degrees from the vertical. The side plates of the turret armor are to be 9 inches thick.

The main or protected deck is to extend throughout the length of the vessel, to be worked flat. The total thickness will be 1½ inches.

A conning tower of 7½ inches in thickness, having an armored communication tube 3 inches in thickness, will be carried in a suitable commanding position forward, the tube extending to the armor deck, and affording protection to the voice tubes, bell wires, &c.

The vessel will be driven by twin screws. The engines (two in number) are to be of the vertical, triple-expansion type, in one water-tight compartment; the high pressure cylinder 17 inches in diameter, the intermediate 26¾ inches and the low pressure 40 inches; the stroke of engine to be 24 inches. The boilers (four in number) are to be of the water-tube type, constructed for a working pressure of 250 pounds, and are to be placed in one water-tight compartment. There will be the usual auxiliary machinery and workshop tools.

Distilling apparatus and evaporators will be fitted for supplying fresh water. The total coal-bunker capacity will allow at least 200 tons, with loose stowage without trimming. The total weight of machinery (but not including turret-turning machinery, capstan, windlass, steering gear or winches) is limited to 240 tons. Fifty tons of water for steaming purposes must be carried in the double bottom. Steam windlass, steering engines and boat winches will be provided.

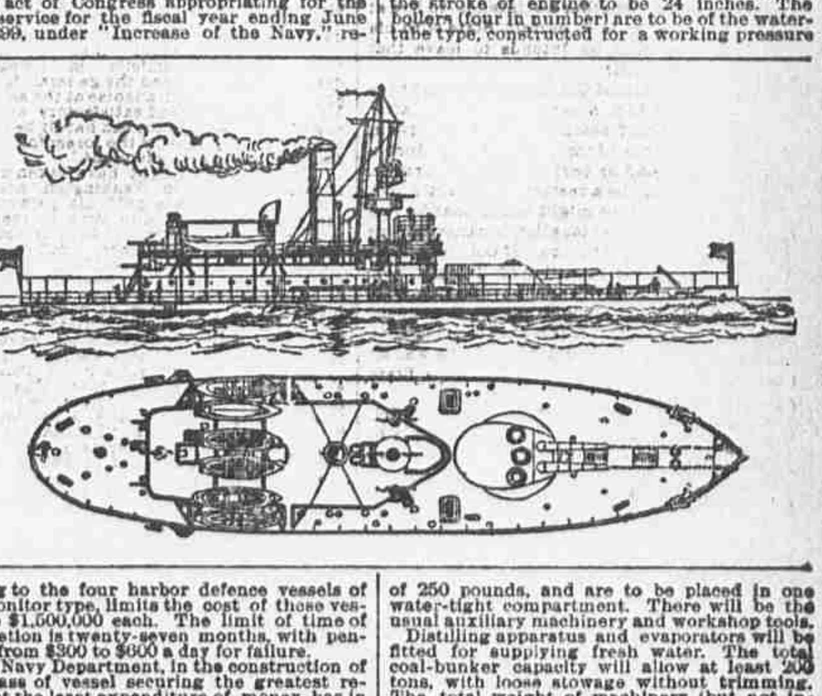
These vessels will have staterooms, in addition to one for the Captain, for six officers; require a complement of crew of 125, for whom ample berthing space has been provided. Storerooms are provided for one month's supply of clothing, contingent and small stores.

The electric generating plant will consist of four units, each unit to have an engine, dynamo, and compensation bed plate, and each dynamo a rated output of 400 amperes of 80 volts.

The turret-turning gear, ammunition hoists, elevating gear, rammers and ventilating apparatus will be operated by electricity.

The estimated speed of the vessel is to be 12 knots—amply sufficient for a harbor defence vessel. All wood used in the construction of the vessels will be fireproofed. The vessels will be fitted with docking keels, which will also serve the purpose of bilge keels.

These harbor defence monitors, which will have all the latest improvements known to naval science, will be important additions to the navy, and, being small, with large accommodations for crew for vessels of their size, they will be valuable for the use and instruction of the naval militia, that important organization which has so ably served the Government in the late war with Spain.



Capt. Clayton Recovered from His Illness.

Capt. Bertram T. Clayton, the commander of Troop C, who was taken ill with typhoid fever the day after his arrival with his men in Brooklyn from Porto Rico, has fully recovered from the disease. He left St. John's Hospital yesterday, where he had been confined during his illness.

Private McGirr Dead of Typhoid.

Private James J. McGirr of Company B, Second Infantry, who was sent from Camp Wikoff on the ambulance ship Shinnecock on Sept. 12, died late on Friday night at St. Catharine's Hospital, Brooklyn. His death was due to typhoid fever.

SICKNESS IN THE 203D NEW YORK.

Only 400 Officers and Men Turned Out for Dress Parade at Camp Meade.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Sept. 24.—The 203d New York is more affected by illness than any other regiment at Camp Meade. At dress parade this evening only 400 officers and men turned out. The regiment is infected with typhoid and other fevers, all of which are said to have been contracted at Camp Black. The men who have been sent from this regiment to the field hospitals will be transferred to hospitals in Philadelphia and other nearby cities as fast as they can be moved with safety. There is also much sickness in the 201st New York, but comparatively little in the 202d.